

12/25/22 "Humble," Luke 2:1-17, MEV
(Christmas series *He Keeps His Promises*)

INTRODUCTION: Did anyone notice when Jesus came to Bethlehem?

MAIN IDEA: Live like Jesus. How? Here are two things to do.

I. First, humble ourselves (1-7)

Philippians 2:5-11, NLT: ⁵ You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. ⁶ Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

A. in our presentation...no matter position or purpose

EX: Jesus did not come as a king with parade & trumpets, "throwing down," ignoring rulers, demanding best accommodations

1. came as a baby, son of a carpenter
2. came submissive to authority (to parents & Caesar)
3. came in hardship

B. in our expectation of others...not making demands

1. allowing others to fulfill their positions, authority:
Caesar, parents, innkeeper
2. not requiring special treatment: no special favor
(manger), no travel help (90 miles, 35-40 hrs.)
3. always let others be themselves

ILLUSTRATION: Evangelist Joe Chamberlin—stay anywhere (duplex), eat anywhere

TRANSITION: Jesus lived this teaching... **Matthew 23:12, MEV:** For he who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

II. Second, let our exaltation come from others (8-17)

Proverbs 27:2, MEV: Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger and not your own lips.

EX: Angel to shepherds, heavenly host to shepherds, shepherds to Joseph, Mary & anyone else who would listen

A. in response to our humility, God exalts us (angels)

1. He lifts us up...spiritually
2. with joy He points to us

Ephesians 3:10, NLT: God's purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

B. others will praise us

1. they respond to our humility
2. they respond to what God reveals about us
3. they respond to God in us (His humility)

C. exaltation continues...Jesus' continues today

1. by HIS followers
2. by the celebration of Christmas
3. by ongoing persecution
4. by the calendar used by much of the world

B.C. (before Christ)—AD (in the year of our Lord), since proposed in 525 by a Christian monk

BCE & CE (although it's been around since early 1700s, more common now as an attempt at a non-religious calendar), BUT, it's still based on Jesus' birth

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION: God will exalt us when we appear before Him, when we reign with Him for 1,000 years...He continues to lavish us with His love.

ALTAR: Let us exalt Jesus' name